

Make 1995 A Holiday To Remember

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — For the do-it-yourselfer, it's time to work toward making 1995 a holiday to remember.

Recently, Berks County Extension held workshops for two days on creating gifts, decorations, and food for the holidays.

"You can give gifts that look nice but are not expensive," Rosanna Gelpi said.

As an international marketing consultant, Gelpi is familiar with products that are fairly new on the market.

One of the products that she recommends crafters to use is Verdigris and Granite. These can be used on new or old items to make them more attractive. A kit offers

step-by-step instructions to transform wooden, cardboard, and other surfaces into a patina or granite look.

"You don't need to be an artist to use it or to turn items into attractive gifts," Gelpi said.

To help create special gifts from scraps of leftover wrapping paper and fabric, Gelpi used a product called HeatBond. By following the manufacturer's directions, this product can be used to make quick placemats, tablecloths, utensil caddies, and aprons.

Coordinating no-sew napkins and tablecloths can also be made by the non-sewer.

The HeatBond Hem Iron-On Adhesive is a quick way to hem an article without sewing a stitch.

Greens, Berries, Pods

W. Eugene Burkhart Jr. created holiday decorations for the door, wall, table, and fireplace by using greens, berries, and pods. The easiest way for people to learn to make arrangements is to watch someone else make one and copy it. Another way is to study the photographs with this article and copy it.

For a table centerpiece, fasten soaked oasis in a shallow dish. Insert pieces of white pine, cedar, fir, and boxwood in a shape that resembles a Christmas tree when finished. Stagger three lotus pods on two sides of the arrangement and two more at the bottom sides of the arrange. Accent with holly.

For a vine wreath, Burkhart took a 20-inch vine wreath. Arrange and glue greens on the wreath. Wire desired color bow to the wreath. Glue lotus pods, sarracenia, and berries to the wreath in desired design.

A candleholder arrangement can be made by cutting Oasis to fit a candle adapter placed on a candlestick. Place candle in center of Oasis. Arrange a mixture of greens around the Oasis. Add berries and pine cones.

The hundreds of persons who attended the workshop also donated food to the Reading Emergency Shelter and gave money for Berks County Extension Homemakers Scholarships, which will be awarded in the spring.

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A culinary student demonstrates cooking holiday dressings for a savory addition to holiday meals.



W. Eugene Burkhart Jr. made holiday decorating easy by using greens, berries, and pods in arrangements.



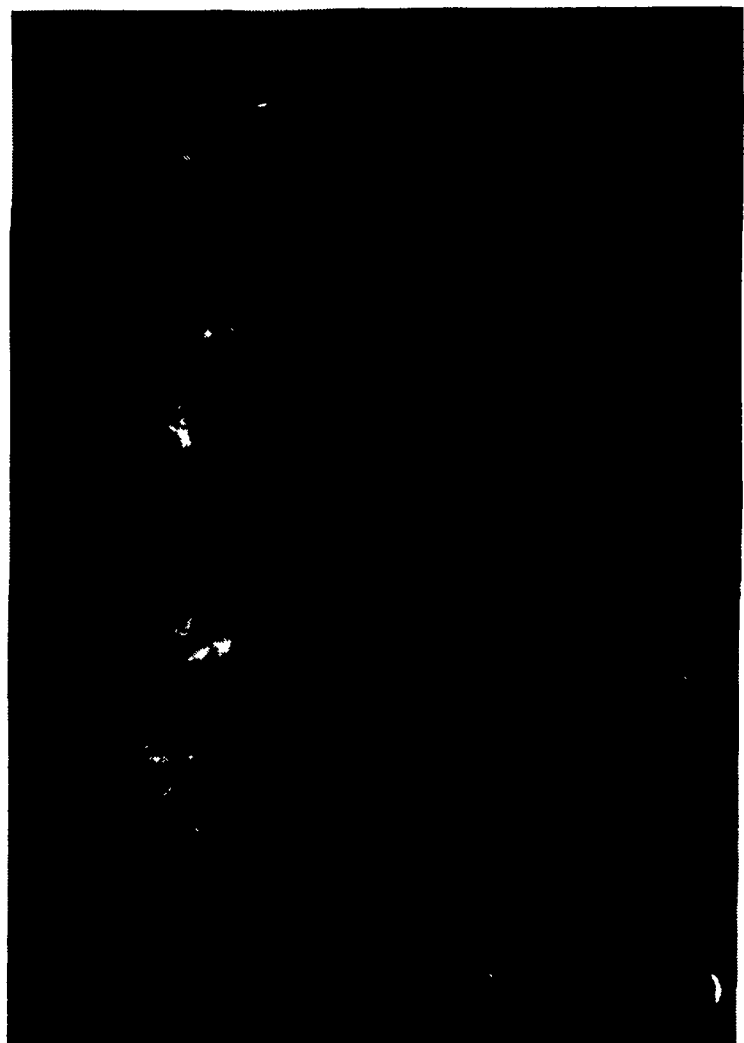
A table centerpiece using a variety of greens results in a fresh natural look.



A candle o'dapter makes a candle arrangement simple to make and elegant to admire.



This wall arrangement is the perfect solution to a hard-to-fill spot.



Rosanna Gelpi-Houck suggests sponge painting a clay pot and filling it with napkins, placemats, and coasters made by using Heatbond. Add a candle to complete the look.



By using Verdigris and granite, these items were transformed from plain cardboard, wood, or plastic to look like granite and marble pieces.